

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An assaying apparatus for collecting and analyzing a liquid sample for an analyte in the liquid sample, the apparatus comprising:

a container having an interior chamber with a liquid sample space, said container having a surface defining an opening in fluid communication with said interior chamber;

an assay strip disposed in said interior chamber and isolated from said liquid sample space, said assay strip having an assay region for indicating the presence or absence of an analyte in a liquid sample placed in said liquid sample space of said interior chamber; and

a wick disposed in said interior chamber in fluid communication with said assay strip for conducting a portion of the liquid sample from said interior chamber to said assay region of said assay strip.

2. The assaying apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a pair of ribs on the interior surface of the interior chamber of said container forming a slot for receiving and retaining said assay strip and said wick.

3. The assaying apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a cap for closing and sealing said container.

4. The assaying apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said assay strip comprises wicking material for conducting the liquid sample from said wick to said assay region of said assay strip.

5. The assaying apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a separator member disposed in said interior chamber separating said liquid sample space from said assay region of said assay strip, and a bridging wick piece adjacent to said separator member, said bridging wick piece being in fluid communication with said wick and in immediate contact with said assay strip for conducting the liquid sample

from said wick to said assay strip.

6. The assaying apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a retainer member disposed over said assay strip and said wick for retaining said assay strip and said wick in place in said interior chamber.

7. An assaying apparatus for collecting and analyzing a liquid sample for the presence or absence of a plurality of analytes in the liquid sample, the apparatus comprising:

5 a container having an interior chamber with a liquid sample space, said container having a surface defining an opening in fluid communication with said interior liquid sample chamber;

a plurality of assay strips disposed in said interior chamber, each of said assay strips having an assay region for indicating the presence or absence of an analyte in a liquid sample placed in the liquid sample space of said interior chamber;

10 a separator member disposed in said interior chamber separating said liquid sample space from said assay regions of said assay strips; and

wick means disposed in said interior chamber in fluid communication with said assay strip for conducting a portion of said liquid sample from said interior chamber to said assay regions of said assay strips.

8. The assaying apparatus of Claim 7, further comprising a pair of ribs on the interior surface of said interior chamber forming a slot for receiving and retaining said assay strips and said wick means.

9. The assaying apparatus of Claim 7, further comprising a cap for closing and sealing said container.

10. The assaying apparatus of Claim 7, wherein each of said assay strips comprises wicking material for conducting the liquid sample from said wick means to said assay region of said assay strip.

11. The assaying apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said wick means comprises a plurality of wicks.

12. The assaying apparatus of Claim 7, further comprising a bridging wick piece adjacent to and in fluid communication with said wick means and in immediate contact with said assay strips for conducting the liquid sample from said wick means to said assay strips.

13. The assaying apparatus of Claim 7, further comprising a retainer member disposed over said assay strips and wick means for retaining said assay strip and wick means in place in said interior chamber.

14. The assaying apparatus of Claim 7, further comprising a retainer member disposed over said assay strips, said bridging wick piece and said wick means, for retaining said assay strip, bridging wick piece and wick means in place in said interior chamber.

15. Assaying apparatus for collecting and analyzing a liquid sample for an analyte in the liquid sample, the apparatus comprising:

a container having an interior sample chamber with a liquid sample space, said container having a surface defining an opening in communication with said interior liquid sample chamber;

a cap adapted to be placed on said container opening for closing said container opening and sealing said container;

an assay strip disposed in said cap, said assay strip having an assay region for indicating the presence or absence of an analyte in a liquid sample placed in said liquid sample space of said interior chamber; and

a wick mounted to said cap and extending into said liquid sample space of said interior sample chamber when said cap is placed on said container, said wick being in fluid communication with said assay strip for conducting a portion of the

liquid sample from said interior chamber to said assay region of said assay strip.

16. The assaying apparatus of Claim 15, further comprising a transparent cover over said assay strip permitting observation of the results of the assay.

17. The assaying apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said cap comprises a separator member disposed between said assay strip and said interior chamber for separating said liquid sample space from said assay region of said assay strip.

18. The assaying apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said assay strip comprises wicking material for conducting the liquid sample from said wick to said assay region of said assay strip.

19. The assaying apparatus of Claim 15, further comprising a bridging wick piece adjacent to and in fluid communication with said wick and in immediate contact with said assay strip for conducting the liquid sample from said wick to said assay strip.

20. Assaying apparatus for collecting and analyzing a liquid sample for the presence or absence of a plurality of analytes in the liquid sample, the apparatus comprising:

5 a container having an interior sample chamber with a liquid sample space, said container having a surface defining an opening in communication with said interior liquid sample chamber;

a cap adapted to be placed on said container opening for closing said container opening and sealing said container;

10 a plurality of assay strips disposed in said cap, each assay strip having an assay region for indicating the presence or absence of one of a plurality of analytes in a liquid sample placed in said liquid sample space of said interior chamber; and

a wick mounted to said cap and extending into said liquid sample space

of said interior sample chamber when said cap is placed on said container, said wick being in fluid communication with said assay strip for conducting a portion of the liquid sample from said interior chamber to said assay region of said assay strip.

21. The assaying apparatus of Claim 20, further comprising a transparent cover over said assay strips permitting observation of the results of the assays.

22. The assaying apparatus of Claim 20, wherein said cap comprises a separator member disposed between said assay strips and said interior chamber for separating said liquid sample space from said assay region of said assay strip.

23. The assaying apparatus of Claim 20, wherein said assay strips comprise wicking material for conducting the liquid sample from said wick to said assay regions of said assay strips.

24. The assaying apparatus of Claim 20, further comprising a bridging wick piece adjacent to and in fluid communication with said wick and in immediate contact with said assay strips for conducting the liquid sample from said wick to said assay strips.

25. Assaying apparatus for collecting and analyzing a liquid sample for the presence or absence of at least one analyte in the liquid sample, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a liquid sample; and

a test strip holder, including at least one assay strip, each said assay strip having an assay region for indicating the presence or absence of an analyte in a liquid sample placed in the liquid sample space of the interior chamber of the container.

26. The assaying apparatus of Claim 25, wherein said means for

receiving a liquid sample comprises a tube.

27. The assaying apparatus of Claim 25, wherein said means for receiving a liquid sample comprises a collection vial.

28. The assaying apparatus of Claim 27, wherein said collection vial is also a protective mailing tube.

29. The assaying apparatus of Claim 27, wherein said collection vial includes means for engaging said test strip holder.

30. The assaying apparatus of Claim 25, wherein each said assay strip comprises wicking material for conducting the liquid sample from the means for receiving a liquid sample to the assay region of the assay strip.

31. The assaying apparatus of Claim 25, further comprising a wick mounted to said test strip holder and adapted to extend between the means for receiving a liquid sample and said at least one assay strip.